General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 94 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/59/492)*]

59/147. Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002 and 58/15 of 3 December 2003 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 and its tenth anniversary in 2004,

Recalling also that relevant United Nations instruments on human rights as well as relevant global plans and programmes of action call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family, bearing in mind that in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of the family exist,

Recalling further that the family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened, and that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provided a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues,

Recognizing also the commendable efforts made by Governments at the local and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning families,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child,

Aware that families are affected by social and economic changes, manifested as observable worldwide trends, and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families have to be identified and analysed,

Noting with concern the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on family life, as well as the devastating effects on family life of other infectious diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis,

Noting with concern also the devastating effects of difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts and natural disasters on family life,

Recognizing the important role of non-governmental organizations, at both the local and the national levels, working in the interest of families,

Aware that there is a need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Recalling that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be observed and celebrated during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Notes* that the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2006;

2. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including applied studies and research, in order to promote the role of families in development and develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities in dealing with family issues;

3. *Urges* the international community to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and their follow-up processes, including those agreed to in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session on 27 June 2001;[2]

4. *Encourages* more inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on issues relating to the family;

5. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations, within existing resources, to promote further the exchange of experiences at the regional level through the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services, to Governments upon request;

6. *Emphasizes* that the Secretariat should continue its important role in the programme of work on family issues within the United Nations system, and, in this regard, encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, including through:

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[1] E/CN.5/2004/3.

[2] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

(*a*) The provision of policy guidance on emerging issues and trends affecting the family through the preparation of studies and research papers aimed, in particular, at enhancing the role of the family in society;

(*b*) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, to enhance, where appropriate, their national capacities in the area of family-related work;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to disseminate a compilation of existing development cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the field of the family for the benefit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other relevant United Nations bodies, Member States and observers by the time of the holding of the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family by preparing for the observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

(*b*) To continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to provide financial assistance for activities specific to the family and for projects of direct benefit to it, with special focus on least developed and developing countries;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2004